



June 2003

# HALE AHI NEWS



**HFD QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER**  
April - June 2003

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, July 22, 2003  
FF2 Promotional Ceremony
- Tuesday, August 5, 2003  
86th Recruit Graduation  
Pacific Beach Hotel
- Saturday, August 9, 2003  
Firemen's Fund Picnic  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Kalama Beach Club
- Saturday, August 9, 2003  
FF2 & FF3 Promotional Exam
- Friday, August 15, 2003  
Admission Day
- Monday, September 1, 2003  
Labor Day
- Sunday, September 7, 2003  
HFD Family Fun Day  
Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park
- Friday, September 12, 2003  
HFD Retirees' Association  
Quarterly Meeting

## HAWAII FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

**T**he Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) was formed on August 25, 1978, to encourage professional development and fellowship among the members of the fire service in Hawaii. The HFCA conducts research, studies industry related problems, develops educational programs, and encourages the exchange of ideas, information, knowledge, and experience in subjects that affect the protection of life and property.

Member organizations include the Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii County Fire Departments, the Federal Fire Department, the Hickam Fire Department, the U. S. Army Garrison Hawaii, the Hawaii State Airports, the Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands Fire Department, the Chevron Fire Department, and the State Division of Forestry.

The HFCA holds an annual conference that rotates between the four counties and features speakers who address national and international issues. Past speakers have included Gary Mars, Chief of Oklahoma City



HFD honors fallen Honolulu Police Department Officer Glen Alvin Gaspar at Hawaiian Memorial Park.

during the bombing of the Murrah Building; Mike Brown, Past President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC); and Alan Vickery, Operations Chief for the Seattle Fire Department during the World Trade Organization riots and leader of the Seattle USAR team that went to New York following 9/11.

This year's conference marks the HFCA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is being held at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu. The conference will be hosted by the HFCA member departments on Oahu. Guest speakers will be Robert Duval, Senior Fire Investigator for the NFPA who conducted the

investigation of the World Trade Center, and Glenn Furuya, a local management consultant with Leadership Works.

Associate memberships are available to anyone who believes in and subscribes to the purposes of the HFCA. Annual membership fees are \$10.00 per year and entitle members to attend the annual conference. For membership and conference information, contact Assistant Chief Wayne Nojiri at 831-7776.





**PRIDE, SERVICE,  
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department  
Attilio K. Leonardi  
Fire Chief**

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### Hale Ahi News

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## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

## **Vision Statement**

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

# **FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...**

The Honolulu Fire Department did extremely well for the fiscal year (FY) 2004 budget, taking into consideration the financial situation of the City. Our executive and administrative staff put in countless hours justifying and providing testimony on the proposed budget. Our efforts proved worthwhile, as we increased our budget by \$4,340,008 or 6.7% for a total FY 2004 operating budget of over \$65,000,000. The increase covers funds for collective bargaining raises, reinstatement of 20 positions, accumulated vacation benefits for retirees, matching monies for potential grants, and the negotiated new rank for rank recall system.

The 86<sup>th</sup> Recruit Class, consisting of 42 recruits (originally 44), will graduate



on August 5, 2003, at the Pacific Beach Hotel. The 87<sup>th</sup> Recruit Class, made up of 26 recruits, is tentatively scheduled to begin training in October. These two classes should fill all of our vacant positions, except for those that will be retiring at the end of the year.

The City Council approved the appointment of Ms. Cynthia Bond as Fire Commissioner on March 19, 2003. As some of you may recall, she served as the Deputy of the Department of Human Resources, until her retire-

ment in November 2002. Please join me in welcoming Commissioner Bond to our ohana!

In our last issue, we did a story on Fire Commissioner Norman Ahakuelo. He was one of our founding Commissioners, who helped establish and develop the Fire Commission to what it is today. It is with great sadness that I report that Mr. Ahakuelo passed away in May. Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife and family.

On a closing note, I want to acknowledge all of you for your efforts at the various drills and training events held recently. These activities help to ensure the readiness and preparedness expected of our personnel in an emergency situation.

## **Pawaa Squid Tournament**

The Pawaa Squid Tournament, sponsored by the personnel of Station 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2003, in the Kaneohe Bay. The morning of the tournament started out a little gray and overcast, but by the end of the day the skies were great for diving. At 9 a.m., 65 divers met at the sandbar for a short review of the rules before heading out to their favorite "squid holes." All boats had to be back at the ramp by 2:30 p.m. to weigh their catches. Following the weigh-ins, entrants feasted on ono food while the awards were presented. This year's tournament also included categories for fish and shells.

The winners were:

### **Largest Squid**

1 <sup>st</sup> Chuck Spencer	6 lbs 14 oz.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bert Akuna	5 lbs. 12 oz.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Joel Walker	4 lbs. 11 oz.

### **Total Weight (Squid)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Cedric Bertelmann	13lbs. 10 oz.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Corey Lau	10lbs. 14 oz.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tommy Hawn	10lbs. 2oz.

### **Total Weight (Fish)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Mike Chung	9lbs. 6oz.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ben Suiso	8lbs. 10oz.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nalu Kukea	7lbs. 7oz.

### **Most Pieces (Squid)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Randy Ishihara	6 pcs @ 17lbs. 10oz.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Butch Ralston	4 pcs @ 13lbs. 8 oz.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Keith Condon	4 pcs @ 8lbs. 11oz.

### **Largest Fish**

1 <sup>st</sup> Andy Mau	3lbs. 8oz.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Casey Ferreira	3lbs. 1oz.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Larry Yamamoto	2lbs. 4oz.

### **Best Shell**

Asa Tanaka



## TAKING UP



### **BATTALION CHIEF PAUL GERARD**

Entry Date: June 1, 1970  
Retirement Date: June 1, 2003

Assignments: E34, E2, L2, E35, E10,  
FCC, E38, FB, E1, Bn. 1

**Likes about the Fire Department:** The excitement and "adrenaline rush" that comes with receiving an alarm, responding to and mitigating the emergency. There's also a great satisfaction that comes with helping someone who is hurt or in distress.

**Will miss about the Fire Department:** Although I will always be a fire fighter, I will miss the friendships, relationships, and comradeships I've developed as a member of the HFD "family." I will certainly miss the daily interpersonal dynamics of fire station living.

**Plans for the future:** I will be assisting my sister in the care and maintenance of the houses, homes, and properties she has here in the islands.

**Words of Wisdom:** There will be times when you'll disagree with something someone says or does and that's okay. Just remember, "You can disagree without being disagreeable."

**What got you interested in the fire service:** I actually went to Civil Service (now the Dept. of Human Resources) to apply for a position with the Honolulu Police Department. While there, the lady working at the counter informed me that the HFD was also recruiting and asked if I wanted to apply. I figured why not, filled out the applications and did well with the written exams and the physical agility testing for both departments. I was fortunate enough to be selected by both departments and chose fire over police... the best choice I ever made.

**Who and what made an influence in your career:** Many people influenced me in different ways throughout my 33 years of service. If I were to select one person that stands out in my mind, it would have to be retired Battalion Chief John Souza. He encouraged me to continue my education and thereby develop the potential he saw in me. His management style taught me to be firm but fair and I thank him for pointing me in the right direction. I hope my fire fighters can say I did the same for them.

## AN UKU FOR YOU!

(Joseph Souza - L17/3)

**T**his story starts with a piece of wood. Not just any type of wood, but perhaps a 6-inch wide by 2-inch thick piece of premium select curly koa that costs more than a good used car. From there, it passes into the hands of a modern day craftsman who envisions great things for this special piece of wood. Joe Souza (L17/3) has been making 'ukulele's now for over twelve years. His passion for the instrument and its construction has grown into a thriving business that now engulfs almost all of his days off. Kanile'a 'Ukulele's are in high demand not only here in the islands but across the United States and Japan. Joe says, "All we could ever wish for is steady work." Fairly modest when you consider his ukes are on serious back order. One of



Joe's customers who is a noted 'ukulele collector and currently owns over 250 ukes (7 of them from Joe's hands) has expressed how much Joe's instruments will be worth in the future. For all we know, Joe just may be the Stradivarius of the 'ukulele world.



## Monahan Wins Surf Ski State Title

(Honolulu Star Bulletin)

**I**n the Kanaka I Kai Ka State championship races held in April, Sean Monahan, 33, of Engine 24/3, broke through for his second career surf ski victory taking the State title. Paddlers started the 23-mile race from Makai Pier near Makapuu and finished at Sand Island. Competitors had to challenge rough seas and a receding tide, with tradewind surf breaking along Oahu's eastern shore and an 8-to 12-foot swell pounding the southern shore. The most successful competitors were able to negotiate the sizable breakers for long rides while others suffered battered and broken equipment due to the conditions.

Sean credits "epic conditions" in finishing first with a time of 2 hours, 30 minutes, and 26 seconds. "This was the first race this season with good surf for the entire course. I think that helped me out a little bit - a good day surfing."

The subsequent Molokai to Oahu World Championship race, which was held on May 18, 2003, did not prove to be as successful for Sean. He suffered cramps during the race, but still managed to come in 15<sup>th</sup> place. Congratulations on your State title!



## Gabe and Friends Fundraiser

**T**he Gabe and Friends event at the Ala Moana Hotel on April 13, 2003, was a smashing success. Friends, family, and well-wishers of retired Fire Captain Edward "Gabe" Gabriel filled the Rumours Nightclub to capacity. The music was fabulous and a fantastic roster of entertainers was on hand to perform. Our own Firehouse did a stint and then accompanied everyone else for the rest of the evening! Gabe said he was "very surprised and overwhelmed" by the entire event.

Mahalo to everyone who volunteered and participated in this very special evening. Your generous support enabled us to give back and show our appreciation to Captain Gabe for all that he has done and for all the lives he has touched. We were able to give Gabe more than \$16,000 to assist him with his medical expenses. Once again, the HFD came together for one of our own!





## RECIPE

### *Kanani's BBQ Sauce* (From a Friend of a Friend of a Friend)

1 Cup Brown Cane Sugar  
1 Cup Ketchup  
1/2 Cup Oyster Sauce  
1/2 Cup Shoyu  
1 Tbsp. Chopped Garlic

Mix all ingredients into a large bowl stirring until the sugar is dissolved.

Recipe is sufficient for about 2 to 2-1/2 pounds of poultry, pork, or beef.

### CHICKEN:

Use breasts or boneless chicken thighs. Skin is optional. Marinate chicken for 2 to 3 hours in refrigerator. Broil or use hibachi or gas grill.

### PORK:

Use baby back ribs. Par boil ribs in water with a slice of ginger until ribs are tender. Marinate ribs for 2 to 3 hrs. BBQ or broil.

### BEEF:

Excellent with short ribs or skirt steak. Marinate as above and either broil or BBQ.

Recipes are welcomed.

Please send recipes to  
eadam@co.honolulu.  
hi.us



# FIRE OPERATIONS

ASSISTANT CHIEF CHARLES WASSMAN

On July 1, 2003, the Department implemented the Rank for Rank Recall program negotiated in the most recent Collective Bargaining Agreement. There are probably still many unanswered questions and concerns about the program and, hopefully, the following information will help to answer those questions.

Rank for Rank Recall only involves Captains, Fire Fighter IIIs, and Fire Fighter IIs assigned to Fire Operations positions. Battalion Chiefs and Fire Fighter 1s assigned to Fire Operations

are not authorized to participate in the program. Ranked personnel on probation who are assigned to Fire Operations are also authorized to participate in the Rank for Rank Recall.

A position can be filled by a person with the same ranked position from the same apparatus, when the member occupying the position is on a 24-hour scheduled vacation. The vacation has to have been approved by the member's respective Battalion Chief at least 7 days prior to the date of the vacation. A start-up Rank for Rank Recall computerized system has been created to assist in the imple-

mentation of this program. The final version of the computerized system is being developed by Fire Operations and the Department of Information and Technology. It should be completed by the end of 2003.

For members who have suggestions regarding the implementation of the program, contact your union official so the committee monitoring the program can address them. The committee members are: Fire Chief Attilio K. Leonardi, Assistant Chief Ken Silva, Dean Matsukawa, and Captains Robert Lee, Terry Cano, and Guy Fujio.

## TOP RUNS APRIL 2003-JUNE 2003



### ENGINES

E3	240
E42	239
E1	228
E16	222
E28	214
E26	202
E24	192

### LADDERS

L2	359
L7	274
Q26	247
L17	224
Q12	215
L4	195
L5	152

### BCs

BN. 4	102
BN. 1	91
BN. 2	83
BN. 5	81
BN. 3	54

## "This Is Control..." Fire Communication Center - BC Ed Simeona

### AVL

#### (Automatic Vehicle Locator)

The major parts and equipment have been installed, but due to many technical problems, the new Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system is still not live. FCC has been working with the various vendors and is hopeful that the system errors and different bugs can be worked out soon. Field personnel will be receiving user manuals prior to going live. Stay tuned...

#### HFD vs. HPD

In the past month, HFD personnel have had the opportunity to challenge personnel of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) in two

different contests. The second annual "Police Week Karaoke" was held on May 14, 2003, at Hale Makai, the police headquarters on Beretania Street. Jarin Wong of the FPB, James Reyes of E2/2, Ocean Kaowili of TW9/1, and Ed Simeona of FCC represented the HFD. Ed Simeona did the department proud by taking 2nd place. The host, Ms. "Snookie" Davis, is very interested in doing a collaborative CD utilizing the vocal talents of HFD, EMS, and HPD. The proceeds would be divided among the three departments as donations to the charities of their choice. Stay tuned for more information on this project, and practice for the 3rd

annual contest next year, as volunteers will be solicited again next year!

The second contest was held at the Mayor's Central Oahu Park Grand Opening on Saturday, June 14, 2003, when HFD challenged the HPD in a softball contest. HPD must have still been upset at our karaoke win because they brought out their "whoopin" stick and laid to us. It wasn't pretty but after the smoke cleared, we were the best-dressed players in our HFD blue T-shirts and physical fitness shorts. You can rest assured that we did the department proud by taking 2nd place again.



# FIRE PREVENTION - BC LLOYD ROGERS

DON'T STALL - CALL 911

## Youth Firesetting Intervention Program

**T**he Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) is establishing a Youth Firesetting Intervention Program (YFIP). Up until now, the HFD did not have a formal program and relied upon individual members' initiative to speak to and educate youngsters on the dangers of fire play. This new program addresses the problem of youth fire setting through early intervention, prevention, and education. On June 18-20, 2003, twenty-four HFD volunteers attended a seminar funded through a Federal Emergency Management Association grant that was held at the Ala Moana Hotel. The instructors, Donald Porth and Lisa Lapsansky, are President and Vice-President respectively of SOS FIRES, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing youth fire tragedy. They have had extensive training and experience working with youths in the Washington and Oregon areas.

Outside agencies that attended included HPD Criminal Investigation Division, State Mental Health, American Red Cross, Family Court, and the Depart-

ment of Education. Attendees learned the basic techniques of interviewing children and their parents to determine if the child has a history of past fire setting behavior due to curiosity, availability of matches or lighters, or if the child may be in need of professional counseling due to emotional or psychological conflicts. The seminar also focused on how the various agencies need to work cooperatively for the program to be successful. The success rates of youths who have completed early intervention and education programs are 90% - 100%. This means that a high percentage of youths did not return to their former fire setting behavior. Nationwide, youth fire setting intervention programs have been established for many years.

People under the age of 18 account for 50% of all intentionally set fires and 400 fire deaths a year is attributed to youth set fires. The actual number of intentionally set fires by youths may be much higher because many intentionally set fires are classified as undetermined due to lack of evidence or the time dedicated to conduct a thorough fire investigation. Every year lives are lost and millions of dollars of property destroyed by



children either playing with or deliberately setting fires. When children are determined to have these behaviors, either through HFD's investigations or parents calling for assistance, trained personnel will interview and determine whether educational intervention is the proper method to prevent future fire setting behavior. If, through the interview, it is determined that the child is in need of professional attention, a referral will be made to the appropriate agency for an assessment. When older children (approximately 8-17 years old) are found setting fires and criminal charges may be pending, the child and parents may face mandated counseling and intervention through the judicial system.

Hawaii is no different than any other location in the United States, and has a youth fire setting problem. HFD's Fire Investigators have between 12-15 youth set fires each year that do considerable damage to property. Our serious brush fires occur like clockwork every year during summer vacation, school vacations,

and even sometimes after school. While these fires seldom threaten lives or property, they do drain HFD's manpower and equipment resources. Many times over a third of fire companies on duty are engaged in fighting out-of-control brush fires leaving only a minimum number of personnel and equipment to protect the rest of our island. The results are longer response times to medical and fire calls. The indirect costs of these brush fires are injuries to fire fighters, needless wear and tear to our apparatuses and equipment, threats to wildlife, and damage to the natural environment.

Through the Youth Firesetting Intervention Program, HFD will attempt to make a significant impact on preventing youths from engaging in fire setting behavior and reduce potential life and property loss in the City and County of Honolulu.

For questions or information on the HFD's Youth Firesetting Intervention Program or any other fire safety education program, call the Fire Prevention Bureau's Fire Safety and Education Section at 831-7786.

**WHO:** All Honolulu Fire Department members, family, and friends!

**WHAT:** HFD Family Fun Day at Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, Sunday, September 7, 2003, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**PRICE:** \$15 ticket (\$49 value) for this day only includes lunch, soft drinks, reserved area, and games. Optional lunch for children 3 and under for \$8.



Additional tickets (no lunch) for \$15 valid 9/8-12/31/03 are available.

Any questions, call Sheryl @ 523-4854 or Alison @ 831-7771.

## Honolulu Fire Department Family Fun Day SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2003

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau/Company/Platoon: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Tel, Cell, Pgr.): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$15/ea. (3 & under free) = \_\_\_\_\_

Total of \_\_\_\_\_ addnl. tickets @ \$15 (9/8-12/31/03) = \_\_\_\_\_

Total of \_\_\_\_\_ lunches @ \$8 ea. (3 & under only) = \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket purchase deadline is August 14, 2003.

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Firehouse

Cut and submit w/payment to: Honolulu Fire Dept., Attn. Sheryl

Nakama, 3375 Koapaka Street, Suite #H-425, Honolulu, HI 96819



# “At Scene, In Command”

by Jerry Spencer - Captain E1/1

**T**he first in a series of interviews with the Honolulu Fire Department's Executive Staff. Interview with Chief Atilio Leonardi, June 13, 2003, 0830 hrs., Headquarters.

**HAN:** Employees see your signature on special notices maybe 200 times a year. For the record, what does the “K” stand for in your middle name?

**Chief:** It stands for Kanei. It was my grandmother's surname. My grandmother's entire family was from Hanalei so she gave me that name.

**HAN:** So you're from Kauai?

**Chief:** No, my grandmother is from Kauai. I'm from Honolulu. I was raised on Kauai after the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**HAN:** So that's where you grew up?

**Chief:** Yes, graduated from Kapaa High School.

**HAN:** Where did you attend elementary school?

**Chief:** I went to St. Augustine here in Waikiki.

**HAN:** Was elementary and middle school combined on Kauai?

**Chief:** Yes, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade I went to St. Catherine's School in Kapaa and then Kapaa High School.

**HAN:** Did you play sports?

**Chief:** Track, I ran track. Other than that I was raised on a ranch and had no time to play sports.

**HAN:** What events did you compete in?

**Chief:** Distance, 880, and mile run.

**HAN:** So, after school did you go into the military right away?

**Chief:** After school, I went to college. There was a bunch of us going to Church College of Hawaii in Laie, now called BYU Hawaii. Vietnam was going full on so, we all decided to join the Army Reserves and were stationed at an old armory in Kahuku. We were part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, which had one battalion in California. The Army said,



“Let's activate the Reserves.” So, we all got activated with the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade and became part of the 442<sup>nd</sup> out of Fort Shafter and Fort DeRussey. A lot of us went to Vietnam.

**HAN:** How long was your tour in Vietnam?

**Chief:** I spent four months there. Got out and went back to school. They weren't fire fighters yet but two fire fighters were with us. Paul Gerard and John Duarte... that's how I got into the firehouse.

**HAN:** That brings us to my next question? What were you doing before you entered the fire department?

**Chief:** I was in school during the day and working nights at the Waikiki Texaco. I was married. Gerard and Duarte were going through their recruit training and came by the gas station to talk story. They had their uniforms on and said, “The test is coming up, why don't you take it?” I thought, well, I don't want to be a fire fighter. They said, “You're not, you have to pass the test first.” So, I went down and I passed the test. Scored high, in the top group. I was almost finished with school and got the call from the fire department. I had an offer from Bank of Hawaii as a management trainee. The pay was about \$400 a month; the fire department was paying \$648, so I went to the fire department. (laughter). I don't know if that was a mistake or not? (More laughter.)

**HAN:** What has been the most exciting or memorable event?

**Chief:** The most memorable event was coming from the field as a Captain. I came up here (headquarters) as an intern. I already had a degree, but you don't get to use your degree out in the field. All the management principles you learn hibernate and you don't use them in fire fighting. I found it very challenging, very

rewarding, it was like a different fire everyday. A different type of satisfaction. I ended up staying here. It was a big shift in my career. I got to lay out plans that made a difference for the Department. You got things done when people said it couldn't be done. My most memorable fire was the Harbor Square fire. It was a hot fire on the 26<sup>th</sup> floor, probably bigger than the First Interstate fire. I was a fire fighter on Ladder 4. Four fire fighters got burned at that fire.

**HAN:** If there were a legacy that you would like to leave this department when you retire, what would that be?

**Chief:** I think, like everyone else, you want to leave it better than when you took over. For me as a Chief, my whole goal is to make us the best of the best. I felt we needed to improve in our professionalism and move our department to a national level. That's why we are doing things like accreditation and certification. All the issues addressed on the mainland, we are doing it here. Some departments are doing one or two but we're doing it all, CPAT, EMT-B, etc. We modernized the Department and made it more professional. A lot of pride, service, and dedication in HFD. My other goal was to let the public know what we are doing. PIO was one of the bigger things. We came here, made our mark, and it's almost time to move on.

**HAN:** Finally, what would be the most important message you would like to convey to the fire fighters in this Department?

**Chief:** I think its pride, service, and dedication. They have to be dedicated. We are here to make the Department the best we can make it and to serve the public the best we can. And we can do that by being well trained, well organized, and knowing our job. To be professional, you need to get the training that is required. Go back to school and take fire science. We provide scholarships for this and allow you to take off to attend school. We are developing certification. We can't pay you for attending everything but we will provide the classes and you provide time. It's a mutual relationship. If fire fighters can raise their hand and volunteer and have *kokua* for the department, I think that's what I'd like to leave with our fire fighters.

End of Interview.



## TRAINING BUREAU-BC LIONEL CAMARA

### Night Drills: Punishment or Lifesaver?

As Fire Operations and the Training Bureau continue to conduct drills at night and on holidays, there have been a few who have made comments that these drills are just a waste of time or a way of picking on poor performing companies and/or individuals. In reality, these comments couldn't be any further from the truth.

The intent of the drills is to make sure that we, the Honolulu Fire Department, perform our mission as effectively, efficiently, and safely as we can. These three compo-

nents are the only reasons why the drills were started and will continue to be the driving force behind maintaining drills.

While it would be easier for all of us, myself included, to just kick back and relax, we would be creating a very dangerous situation for our personnel and the public we serve. Could you imagine if fire fighters came to your house and started to compress your infant's chest 1½"-2" during a CPR emergency, or pulled a booster line out to launch an offensive attack on your semi-involved house, while your child was inside screaming for help! Though the above may seem far-fetched, we have witnessed mistakes during the drills that would give the previously mentioned a run for the money! The only difference between the two is that during

a drill, we are able to identify the problem and correct it, without anyone having to lose a life!

For all HFD personnel, especially you Acting Captains, Captains, and Battalion Chiefs out there, the desire to drill should be second nature. This desire should be driven by the fact that your fellow fire fighters are counting on you to make sure that they go home safely the next day. If you still don't care, attend the next company or battalion picnic and look at all of the fire fighters' children there. When I say look, I mean look straight into their eyes, because those are the same little eyes that you will need to look into when you have to explain that it was because of your lack of ability, leadership, or outright laziness that killed their father or mother!

## RETIREEES' REALM

### HFD RETIREEES ASSOCIATION

The members of the HFD Retirees Association wish to extend a sincere "mahalo" to the Metro Fire Chiefs Association for their generous monetary donation.

**Retirees Meeting Update:** The HFD Retirees Association's next two quarterly meetings are scheduled for September 12, 2003, and December 12, 2003, at the Training Center.

All members and new retirees are welcome to attend the meetings to receive updated information and associate with your fellow fire fighters and their spouses. Annual dues are \$5.00.

**Legislative Updates:** The State 2003 Twenty-Second Legislative Session has been an exhausting and time-consuming venture with the end result being that "only" six bills have been forwarded to the Governor's office for her signature. Currently, three of the six bills sent to the Governor, have passed the legislature and were signed. As of June 11, 2003, these bills are:

1. **Senate Bill # 0789 (Act 111): Relating to Public Employee Health Benefits**  
Retirees shall receive a reimbursement for the cost increase of the Medicare Part B medical insurance plan rate. Retirees not covered under this plan may participate in the plan offered by the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.
2. **Senate Bill # 1312 (Act 134): Relating to the Employees' Retirement System (ERS)**  
Requires the ERS to pay interest on the retroactive amount due to those retirees whose pensions are not finalized within six calendar months following the month of retirement; there shall be a late fee to the agency for not submitting pertinent information to finalize a retiree's pension. Effective 2004.
3. **House Bill # 1157 (Act 121): Relating to the Employees' Retirement System**  
Minimizes the administrative processing of refunding contributions for the employees excluded from Social Security coverage.

For more information, you may check for these bills online at: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov/](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/)

**Retiree's Luncheon:** The next retirees' luncheon is scheduled for July 2, 2003, at the Buffet 100 Restaurant in Ward Warehouse.

**HFD Firemen's Fund Inc.** Retirees and future retirees should have received a letter from the Firemen's Fund, Inc., regarding the age adjustment increase in dues. Battalion Chief Clinton Wong and a representative from the Firemen's Fund, Inc. will conduct a presentation at the June 13, 2003, retirees' meeting to address the concerns of the membership.

**Life Insurance-AETNA:** If there are no changes to your beneficiary designation, no response is necessary from you. Be aware that the State fund portion to either the Hawaii Fire Fighters Union or HFD Firemen's Fund, Inc. Insurance Plan will be reallocated to the new State AETNA Life Insurance Plan.



## LAST ALARM



### FF I James Kaheaku

Jan. 3, 2003

Appointed April 16, 1973 - 25 Years  
Last Assignment - Engine 37

### Fireboat Engineer Theodore Ah Loy

Jan. 19, 2003

Appointed Oct. 16, 1965 - 12 yrs. 8 mos.  
Last Assignment - Fireboat

### Captain Felix C. Freitas

Feb. 3, 2003

Appointed Nov. 16, 1942 - 32 yrs. 4 mos.  
Last Assignment - Rescue 1

### Monsignor George Francis Rossbach

Feb. 12, 2003

First HFD Chaplain

### FF III Robert L. Stroh

Feb. 15, 2003

Appointed May 16, 1961 - 28 yrs. 2 mos.  
Last Assignment - Engine 9

### Fire Equip. Mech. Robert T. Wakatake

Mar. 19, 2003

Appointed Feb. 1, 1962 - 13 yrs. 11 mos.

### Fire Engineer Valentine S. Dudoit

April 30, 2003

Appointed Mar. 18, 1942 - 17 yrs. 3 mos.  
Last Assignment - Engine 6

### Fire Commissioner Norman E. Ahakuelo

May 4, 2003

Appointed May 7, 1997 - until Mar. 18, 2003

### FF III Alvin W.K. Chung

May 16, 2003

Appointed Nov. 1, 1960 - 26 years  
Last Assignment - Snorkel 9

### Captain Charles N. Kaheaku

June 7, 2003

Appointed Oct. 16, 1964 - 25 years  
Last Assignment - Fire Prevention Bureau



**ANNIVERSARIES****APRIL TO JUNE****CONGRATULATIONS!****30 YEARS**

Robert Lenchanko  
Anthony Marks  
Ronald Smith

**5 YEARS**

Gary Atud  
Aaron Au Hoy  
Primo Bailon  
Dean Calistro  
Keith Condon  
Andrew Fukuda  
Wade Furukawa  
Lance-Ray Gaspar  
Damien Hardy  
Keith Ito  
Keoki Kaalele  
Kory Kaneshiro  
Gardner Kealoha  
Aaron Kekauoha  
Terry Lee  
Chance Mactagone  
Mark McCabe  
Joseph Meyer  
Kevin Mokulehua  
Kevin Miller  
Ross Miyashiro  
Darrin Moon  
William Muse  
Scott Oshiro  
Eugene Paaluhi Jr.  
Kealii Paialina  
Jeffrey Roache  
Jason Samala  
Stacy Shimokihara  
Elden Tanaka  
John Tani  
Jeffrey Wallace  
Dean Watanabe  
Darren Yuu

**PROMOTIONS**

Congratulations to the following personnel who were promoted during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter:

**APRIL 15, 2003 Fire Fighter III**

Zaldy Acosta	Noel Akiona
Alan Chapman	Michael Chun
David Dougan	Kevin Farm
Guy Fujisato	Dean Hakikawa
Guy Hosaka	Dwayne Howland
Gerald Inenega	Robyn Ishihara
Steven Jenness	Brian Kaaa
Kenneth Kahahawai	Richard Karasaki
Clayton Madrona	Paul Miguel
Edwin Nishi	Gerald Pacheco
Rodney Shapiro	Gifford Shon
Corey L. Silva	Kenneth Tenn
James Titcomb	Lloyd Trujillo
Jimon You	

**JUNE 8, 2003 Fire Fighter II**

Jennifer Davis	Paul Fukuda
Mark Inay	Ernest Kaneshiro
David Letarte	Ted Muraoka
Shannon Parker	Michael O'Sullivan
Robert Sarae	Scot Seguirant
Christopher Powell	

**JUNE 28, 2003 Fire Fighter II**

Matthew Adams	Glenn Awakuni
Jon Barlan	Stanley Carreira
Raymond Egan Jr.	Destry Flores
Anthony Hart	Jeffrey Hooker
James Hull	Keith Kanno
Leroy Malterre	Robin Silva
Ray Yamashita	Patick Young

**HFD Welfare Funds**

(Manny Neves)

The Fire Chief reviewed and approved revisions to the Honolulu Fire Department Welfare Fund Committee Bylaws (3/7/02). The revisions include an increase in payroll deductions and amended benefits for some of the funds. These changes were intended to keep the accounts solvent while continuing to provide many of the services each fund was originally designed for. The revised bylaws may be obtained online at: [www.honolulufire.org/welfarebylaws.htm](http://www.honolulufire.org/welfarebylaws.htm)

**CIVILIAN CORNER****CECILY NAVAL**

SECRETARY  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**C**ecily Ann Naval, a "forty-one dash" (Waimanalo) resident, has been the Administrative Services Bureau (ASB) Secretary since 1998. Cec, as she is known, started her civil service career almost



right out of high school, first with the State Department of Education and then with the City's Department of Housing. She has the distinction of being the first civil service secretary hired by the HFD.

Cec is responsible for the reviewing, editing, and finalizing of all correspondence generated by the ASB, including the OSHO, personnel, and computer sections. In addition to compiling the department's staff report, she also handles the processing of all gifts to the HFD.

Cec has two adult children and a grandson who is the apple of her eye. In her spare time, she enjoys going to the movies, redecorating her home, and checking out garage sales.

She loves the camaraderie with her co-workers and it shows. Always the office rascal, she manages to be serious when it is warranted. Her first impression of the department was favorable, as she felt very appreciated by the Chiefs and staff. She has the highest regard for her supervisor, AC Alvin Tomita, and is grateful that he empowers her as an important member of his team.

**RETIREMENTS****APRIL 1, 2003**

**Edward K. Amina - Captain**

March 16, 1963 - April 1, 2003

**Bruce K. Parker - Captain**

March 16, 1972 - April 1, 2003

**MAY 1, 2003**

**Rodney S. K. Kubo - FF III**

September 2, 1986 - May 1, 2003

**JUNE 1, 2003**

**Paul N. Gerard - Battalion Chief**

June 1, 1970 - June 1, 2003

**MAHALO & ALOHA**